

Ways to be a part of God's vision for our church:

#### PRAYER!

'Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, so that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ.'

**Colossians 4:2-3**

What seems impossible to us now is possible for God whenever He wishes!

#### OPPORTUNITIES

There are always opportunities to step out into doing new things—helping with the Children's Church or with an Alpha course; being part of the Welcome, Refreshments or Car-parking team; leading a small group etc

#### FINANCES

Having a big vision often involves needing more money and there are always bills to pay! There are a number of ways we can help:

1. Bucket Day—collection once a month at church
2. Blue Box—on Welcome Table—to put any donations in at other times
3. Share a gift with God—for example if you have an investment that has matured
4. Direct debit—consider up-dating and so increasing with inflation
5. Gift aid—which allows the church to claim an extra 25% on any gift given by a taxpayer
6. Via the card reader on the Welcome Table
7. Via Amazon Smile—donating as we make our orders

BUT most important of all— every little gift helps and lots of little gifts add up.

'Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.'

2 Chronicles 7:15-16

#### Vision

A church on its knees in prayer.

#### What can we pray for to enable our vision?

To seek the heart of God seriously and persistently for the church—to follow His agenda and not our own.

Incredible generosity as a church—where we give willingly and generously, knowing that God gives even more extravagantly back to us.

Paying back the money lent to us by the Open Door Church and blessing them with a gift.

Teaching with more clarity

Worship with more freedom

Serving with more joy

Teams selfless in pursuit of individuals on the edge of church—loving people into the church.

Growth- 'A big church'. Continuing to reach out and serve our community. More small groups and courses. Building an auditorium at the side of the church in order to serve 450 people. Becoming a resource centre to other churches and church plants both in this nation and abroad.

Plant a church—in Ely. Pray for the Burgess and MacLellan families as they work towards this—for good health, a vision and plan for the future and people to join them on this 'God adventure'.

We are not taking baby steps in fear but giant steps in faith.

What is your part in the vision?



**The Bridge Church**

Changing Lives with God's Love,

Grace and Power

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## *Prayer Requests & News*

Next Prayer Meeting: Thur Feb 27th 2020

Jan 23rd 2020

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To include items in this monthly bulletin, please contact:

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**The Bridge Craft Club**

**Bridge Crochet Club**

**Babies and Toddlers**

**Bridge Youth group**

**Alpha**

For details of these meetings please see the church website or the Sunday bulletins.

**Forthcoming Events:**

**Alpha Course–Sun 26th Jan–6.30pm**

This 11 week course is being held at the church. Bring along any of your non-Christian friends or family to find out more about God. Refreshments and food will be served from 6pm with the course starting promptly at 6.30pm.

**Ladies Breakfast–Sat 8th Feb–9am**

All the ladies are invited to come along to the church for breakfast—and bring their friends along as well. Forms are available on the Welcome Table  
Cost:£3.50

**Men's Curry Night–Tues Feb 25th–7.30pm**

The men of the church can bring their mates along to a local Indian restaurant for some good food, chatting and a short talk.  
Cost:£10

**Weds Morning Prayer Meeting** – beginning Weds

22nd Jan there will be a prayer meeting at the church from 10 to 11.30am – everyone is very welcome. This will be the fourth Wednesday of the month, along with the usual Thursday evening one.

**Dates for your diary:**

**Enough Prayer Meeting–Fri 20th March–6 to 11pm**

**Passover for Christians–Thurs 2nd April–6.45pm**

**'The Call' Conference–27th to 30th May 2020**

A Missions and Leadership Conference run by Relational Mission, the family of churches to which we belong. The bold and courageous vision is for us 'to be globally fruitful, to cross all the boundaries laid before us, making disciples and planting locally led churches.' The conference takes place at Friends House in London, during the May half term.  
Early Bird ticket: £125 until 31st Jan.  
To find out more go to the Relational Mission website.

**Please pray for:**

**Alpha courses**—there are 3 Alpha courses running or about to run. These courses invite our friends and family members who aren't Christians to come and explore what the Christian faith and God are all about and to ask the most awkward questions they can think of. Please pray that the guests who come along feel welcome and relaxed and begin to take on board all that God has done for them. We can all think if we could run our own small Alpha course in our own home (or one of the small rooms at church) and invite our friends along. Please take one of the 6:10 (Matthew) cards on the Welcome Table so we can pray altogether at that time. 'Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.' Matthew 6:10

**Barry and Ros**—Barry has now taken early retirement and we want to thank him for all his hard work and dedication to this church and the people in it over the years. There will be a 'thank you' offering for him and Ros on Sun Jan 26th. Please pray for the whole family in this new and challenging season of their lives.

**Pardubice, Czech Republic**—as part of our vision of being a resource centre for other churches Andy went to the Czech Republic to visit Pete and Michelle. They moved from Ireland five years ago and have gathered 20 to 25 people together in the beginnings of a truly international church with 8 nations represented. Everything is done from their home, which puts pressure on them and their two teenage children. The next step towards setting up a church is to become registered with the state, which requires a solicitor and translation of documents. They really need support—from people to go over and help some Sundays, to the cost of a solicitor and translator for the forms or coming over to 'The Call' conference.

**Anthony Cooney**—has recently had a fourth operation to restore some hearing to one of his ears—please pray that when the bandages come off he will be able to hear.

**Jubilee Church, Ely**—our church plant in Ely along with City Church, Cambridge. The group has begun meeting together once a month. They are now meeting in a Sports and Social Club on the first Sunday of every month. The Burgesses have now sold their house and have found a new one in Ely. The MacLellans house is on the market—please pray that their house sells quickly and they find a suitable new one.

**People to step out**—as we lose people to moving away or retiring, there are gaps being left in our church family that are hard to fill. What can we step out and do to help fill these gaps?

**'Bucket of Love'**—this contains the names of people we love and care about and who we want to have a closer connection with God—both those who have known Him in the past but walked away from Him, and those who have never known Him at all. There are over 850 names in the bucket and God knows and loves every single one of those people. Let's continue to pray faithfully for these people and maybe invite them along to some of the community events or Alpha or even church. The children also have their own bucket in Kid's Church where they pray for their own friends.

**Thank God for:**

**Building of family contacts**—especially through all the Christmas events—Children and Youth parties, community coffee morning, Carol service.

**New baby**—Larna Grace Singh was born on Christmas Day, weighing 6lbs, to Angelina and Ryan. We pray for good health and sleep for all of them as they adjust to family life together.

**Community events**—the Christmas coffee morning raised £176 for Crisis. Over 2019 nearly £2,000 has been raised for various local charities—and we are also getting to know and being known by people in our community.